

## Thank Your Mentor on January 25

January 18, 2005—Was there someone in your life—a teacher, coach, relative, neighbor, friend or boss—who encouraged you and showed you the ropes?

That person was a mentor to you—and now's the time to say thanks.

On January 25, Americans young and old will reach out to thank or honor those individuals who encouraged and guided them, as part of ***Thank Your Mentor Day***<sup>TM</sup>.

***Thank Your Mentor Day*** is a highlight of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Mentoring Month campaign to recruit volunteers to help young people reach their full potential.

President George W. Bush signed a Proclamation on January 12 designating January as National Mentoring Month. The Proclamation states, “One mentor can change a life forever. I encourage all of our citizens to dedicate their time and talents to mentoring a young person.” (The complete text of the Proclamation is available at [www.WhiteHouse.gov/news/proclamations](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/news/proclamations).)

**Name of state/local organization** invites you to honor your mentor by sharing with others the lessons and insights that your mentor taught you, and then to “pass it on” by volunteering at a mentoring program in **name of state/city/town**.

You can learn about mentoring programs **in name of state/city/town** that need volunteers by visiting **local url** or calling **local phone number**.

And, you can post a tribute to your mentor on the campaign’s national website, [www.WhoMentoredYou.org](http://www.WhoMentoredYou.org). The web site also presents video clips and essays in which top celebrities—Tom Brokaw, Gloria Estefan, Colin Powell, Cal Ripken, Jr., Oprah Winfrey, and many others--share recollections about important mentors in their lives. In addition, the site provides free access to animated e-cards created for the campaign by Hallmark, enabling individuals to thank their mentors via e-mail. The site also provides links to [www.Mentoring.org](http://www.Mentoring.org), the web site of MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, enabling visitors to access a national data base of mentoring programs that need volunteers.

The Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership jointly created National Mentoring Month, and are leading the 2005 effort in collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and other national organizations.